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FESSENDEN'S
SILK MANUAL
AND
PRACTICAL FARMER.

Devoted to the Culture of Silk, Agriculture and Rural Economy.

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BOSTON, FEBRUARY, 1837.

MORUS MULTICAULIS.

To the Editor of the Farmer and Gardener:

Sir,— Having seen many statements and suggestions in the public prints, that the Chinese mulberry, (morus multicaulis,) was not as hardy as the White mulberry, and that it would not bear the extreme cold of our winters, &c., I deem it proper to state my own observation on the subject. I was the first person south of New York, who had the Morus Multicaulis; it was sent to me by my old friends, Wm. Prince & Sons, in 1828, in a collection of seven other varieties of mulberry. It was not then known by the present name, but it was called the Phillipine Island mulberry, and I believe was received by the Messrs Prince direct from those Islands. About a year after I received it, accounts were received from France of the receipt there of the Morus Multicaulis, and of its great value for feeding worms. On examining my trees, I at once found that my Phillipine Island Mulberry was the Multicaulis, and immediately commenced feeding my Silk worms with it; and from experiment, ascertained the truth of all the French had said about it. — From that time to this, I have continued to urge upon all, the propriety of cultivating this, in preference to the white mulberry. Its advantages are, it is full as hardy as the white; one pound of its leaves contain as much nutritive matter as a pound and a half of the white; the silk made from it is of a finer texture and more lustrous; its leaves are so large that a pound can be gathered at half the expense and trouble that a pound of White Mulberry leaves require; it can be cultivated with infinitely more despatch than any other kind. These are all great advantages, and I am so well convinced of the correctness of this statement, that I do not hesitate to say, that within ten years, no other mulberry will be cultivated for feeding silk worms; simply because those who feed the worms upon the mulberry leaves will not be enabled to compete with those who feed on Morus Multicaulis, and they will be either compelled to abandon the silk business, or adopt the multicaulis for feeding. In relation to the hardiness of the Morus Multicaulis, I have cultivated it for seven years; never protected it in any manner whatever, and never lost a tree by the cold of winter, or any other way. I had fifty young trees in my garden last winter, and not even a bud on the extremity of the branches was injured. It is true that about fifty yards west from where the young trees stood, there is a grove of oak trees, and on the north, fifty yards distant, my dwelling-house stood; and my garden has an exposure to the south, with a gentle declination. But my residence in the winter of 1831-2, was very different. It was on a farm, four miles in the country, in a northeast direction: the situation at an elevation of 3 to 400 feet above the tide water. There my morus multicaulis had an open exposure to the northwest wind; yet none were injured. During the whole time, I have had the white mulberry of various varieties, and have observed that they were all equally hardy — none more so, than the multicaulis. I have seen the young *unripened wood* of all varieties destroyed by the winter, and was very early led to adopt measures to guard against it, and now I never lose a bud.

None but the young trees are ever injured by winter, and all we have to do is to give them such a start as to enable them to ripen their wood previous to the approach of very cold weather. I raise all my trees from cuttings in a hot bed. — About the first of March, I make an ordinary hot bed, like those used for cabbage plants; then I take the young wood of last year's growth, and cut it into pieces about two inches long, merely leaving a single bud on each; these pieces I stick in the hot bed, three inches apart, in a slanting direction, the upper end inclining to the north, and burying it so that the bud is scarcely seen at the surface of the earth; sprinkle the bed with a watering pot, and put on the glasses; keep the bed properly moistened by watering every day, and throw matting over the glass at night, and in the middle of the day, to protect both from frost and the hot sun. By the middle of May, the plants will be four, six or eight inches high, and may then be transplanted to the place they are to grow, like cabbage-plants, watering them once a day for eight or ten days, if the weather is dry; they will be found to be well rooted, and will grow from four to six feet the same season, and will ripen their wood so that the ensuing winter will not injure them. After the first year, I have never seen any of them lost by the winter, except in some extra cases, and in these the white mulberry has suffered, and even the native mulberry, fully as much as the multicaulis. Last winter, a white mulberry tree, seven or eight years old, in the western part of the city of Baltimore, was killed to the ground; while my morus multicaulis not a quarter of a mile from it, and north of it too, and in a higher situation, was not injured.

GIDEON B. SMITH.

BEET SUGAR.

BY W. G.

There seems to be some little conflicting difference of opinion on the possibility of manufacturing beet sugar profitably by individuals or families, among those whose attention has been drawn to the subject, and who profess to speak from experiment. For instance, Mr Sleigh of Philadelphia, in a late communication to the U. S. Gazette of that city, says: "An establishment will not clear its expense, unless it be calculated to manufacture at least from two to five hundred pounds of sugar a day; so that the idea of individuals in this country manufacturing profitably for private consumption is preposterous; their sugar would stand them, including labor, a dollar a pound." This opinion Mr Sleigh says he has come to "after numerous experiments."

On the other hand, Mr Le Ray de Chaumont, Mr Isnard, and others intimately acquainted with the manufacture in France, assert that there can be no doubt of the practicability and profitableness of domestic or family manufacture, and that there are large quantities actually so manufactured in France. In addition to these statements, in the "Journal des Debats," of April 15, 1836, appears an article on this subject, in which it is stated, that four residents in the village of Wallers, department of the North, formed an association for making sugar, subscribing 50 francs each as capital. One was a blacksmith, the other farmers. These men were able to make from 40 to 50 lbs. a day, of sugar of a medium quality, a result surprising, considering their simple mode of conducting the process. They used curry combs to rasp the beet roots, used linen bags for expressing the juice, and the syrup thus obtained, was boiled in pots on the blacksmith's fires. Several others are mentioned as having introduced the business on a small scale successfully, and the French editor intimates as his opinion, that the time is not distant, when every family in that country, will make their own sugar, as they now do their preserves.

That some experience in the manufacture of beet sugar by companies and capitalits in this country must be acquired, before it can be introduced into families, can be readily conceived, but as the processes become simplified, and our farmers become familiarized with them, and with the culture of the beet, we can see no reason why it cannot be as well made in families here as in France; and there is no reason for doubt but that it will. If with cooking pots and a blacksmith's fire, six or seven dollars worth of sugar were produced; there can surely be no obstacles that American perseverance, and an improved apparatus will find insuperable.—*Genesee Far.*

(From the Maine Farmer.)

RAISING WHEAT.

MR HOLMES: — In your paper of the 9th ult. a correspondent calls on me for further remarks on my farming operations, more particularly as to my method of cultivating wheat.

I had intended to have made a communication on this subject as soon as I had ascertained the amount of my crops. That time has not arrived, but no matter, I shall not probably write so much, nor so often, as to make it very burdensome, if I begin now.

In 1835, as I have said in a former number, my wheat was sown mostly on land broken up in June and July previous — part of it in grass, most clover—the crop turned in—part was cross ploughed in the fall, part in the spring, and part not cross ploughed at all. The quantity sown, and manner of preparing the seed and the amount of crop was stated. On all that field, leached ashes were spread,

one bushel to the square rod, except two acres, on which was spread twenty loads of barn yard manure.

1836, sixteen bushels were sown on eight and a half acres, which was broken up the preceding August, after the hay was taken off. This field had been in clover three years, which I take to be *one* too many, as the clover roots are much diminished after the second year. This field was rolled as soon as ploughed — harrowed in October, and the same amount of leached ashes spread on, as I had used the year before. The seed was cleared of oats and light kernels by washing in brine as strong as salt would make it — this being more ponderous than water, will cause the oats and defective wheat to swim, where it may be skimmed off with an old tin pail cover, punched full of holes, unless you have something better. I will observe that my friend Samuel Taylor, of Fairfield, showed me some *Barley* cleaned in this way, which was handsomer than any I ever saw.

About the middle of June, 20 bushels of air-slacked lime was sowed on five acres, and a bushel and a half of plaster on an acre and a half more. I *think* this part of the field was better grown than the remainder, but have no means of knowing positively. On one acre, on which were potatoes and Ruta Baga the year previous, I sowed two bushels of beardless wheat, whether the kind called "*tea wheat*," I know not. This was steeped in a solution of blue vitriol, two ounces to the bushel. The ground having been manured the year before, none was added, except one bushel of plaster. The wheat was very beautiful in appearance, and was ripe sooner than the other.

Whether this was owing to the different previous culture, or to the variety used for seed, I know not. I have usually found beardless wheat ten or fifteen days later than other kinds I have sown. I should have mentioned, that instead of cross-ploughing, I used a cultivator, which stirred the soil about three inches deep, drawn length-wise on the furrows. I intend to use this implement in future for all my spring sowing, having a frame made to that purpose, heavy and strong enough for seven teeth, with a spread of four feet. Two horses will go over four acres in a day with it. Peas and oats should be sown before its use, and other grains add after it, and the whole finished with a light harrow and roller. I have threshed about one hundred bushels of my wheat, and believe it will yield about eighteen bushels to the acre — may be more — certainly not over twenty. It was cut before it was fully ripe and does not make quite as much flour as did my crop the year before. Five bushels (not tolled) will make over a barrel, however, and I have it ground and put in my barrels for fifty cents. I have this day sold ten barrels for $125. The seed was perfectly free from smut, and so is the product. Hitherto, my wheat has been sown as the first grain crop.

I am prepared, should I live another year, to try it on *sward land* — after oats — after wheat, and on land which has been mowed one year and pastured two years with sheep, and ploughed in July last. My opinion is, that where the hay crop is abundant, in those parts of the country where that crop does not bear, in such years, a higher price than six or seven dollars the ton; the succeeding wheat crop will amply pay for turning the whole under, and rolling it close in June and July, besides having the soil in a most desirable state for future use. I have in two years, sometime since, sowed clover with my first grain crop to turn under in the fall. If the season is wet, there is a fine amount of vegetable matter after harvest, but I have never found a plough yet, which would handsomely turn it under. If the season is very dry, there will be little of it, and at the present price of seed, I have contented myself with my mode of two years to grass and two years to grain.

As to keeping my land in tilth, my creed is short and simple. All the products of the barn and hog yards, which have accumulated for one year, are put under the surface in the spring, for the culture of potatoes and Ruta Baga, to be followed the next year with wheat. On the land intended for wheat and other small grains, as much ashes, lime, plaster and compost, as I feel able to procure — and every two years follow my sheep with the plough for wheat. I hope no one will be led to adopt a course of culture unsuited to his soil and circumstances from my theory or practice. All lands are not suited to grain crops — and my candid belief is, that there is a greater failure among our farmers from not studying the nature of the soil they cultivate, and adopting the proper crops and proper rotation of crops, than *even going abroad to mill*. Yours truly,

JAMES BATES.

The following article is from a newspaper entitled "Eastern Shore Whig and People's Advocate," published at Easton, Maryland. We have been requested to re-publish it, which we do with much pleasure, on the ground of the respectability of the gentlemen who recommended it, though we have never seen the implements.

HUSSEY'S GRAIN CUTTER.

Report of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Agricultural Society for the Eastern Shore, on the Machine for harvesting small grain. Invented by Mr Obed Hussey, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The favorable account of the operation of this implement in several of the Western States, induced the Board to invite Mr Hussey to bring it

to Maryland, and submit it to their inspection. It was accordingly exhibited in Oxford, Talbot Co. on the first of July, in presence of the Board and a considerable number of other gentlemen. Its performance may be justly denominated perfect, as it cuts every spear of grain, collects it in bunches of the proper size for sheaves, and lays it straight and even for the binders. On the 12th of July, a public exhibition was made at Easton, under the direction of the Board; several hundred persons principally farmers, assembled to witness it, and expressed themselves highly satisfied with the result. At the Trappe, where it was shown by the Inventor on the following Saturday, an equal degree of approbation was evinced. It was afterwards used on the farm of Mr Tench Tilghman, where 180 acres of wheat, oats and barley, were cut with it. Three mules of medium size worked in it constantly, with as much ease as in a drag harrow. They moved with equal facility in a walk or a trot. A concise description of this simple implement will show that it is admirably adapted to the important purpose for which it was invented. Resting on two wheels which are permanently attached to the machine, and impart the motion to the whole, the main body of the machine is drawn by the horses along the outer stage of the standing grain. As the horses travel outside of the grain, it is neither knocked down or tangled in the slightest degree. Behind the wheels is a platform (supported by a roller or wheel) which projects beyond the side of the machine, 5 feet into the grain. On the front of the edge projecting part of the platform is the cutter. This is composed of 21 teeth resembling large lancet blades, which are placed side by side, and firmly rivited to a rod of iron. A lateral motion is imparted to it, by a crank, causing it to vibrate between two rows of iron spikes, which point forward. As the machine advances, the grain is cut and falls backwards on the platform, where it collects in a pile. A man is placed on the part of the platform, directly behind the machine, and with a rake of peculiar construction, pushes off the grain in separate bunches, each bunch making a sheaf. It may appear to some, that the grain will accumulate too rapidly for this man to perform his duty. But upon considering the difference between the space occupied by the grain when standing and when lying in a pile after it is cut, it will be evident that the raker has ample time to push off the bunches even in the thickest grain. In thin grain he has to wait until sufficient has collected to form a sheaf.

The machine driven around the grain which may be sown either on a smooth surface, or on corn ridges. For the first round may be cleared with a cradle; but this is deemed unnecessary; for the grain, when driven over, is left in an inclined position, and by cutting it in the oppos i direction, as much of it is saved as with a cradle. Fourteen acres in corn lands, were cut betw[illegible] 10 A. M. and 7 1-2 P. M. The hands had n[illegible] worked with the machine before, nor was the trial a day's work. For owing to the shortness of the straw, the machine was not allowed to cut when passing over the ridges from one side of the ground to the other, and this time was consequently lost. From the principle on which the cutting is performed, a keen edge to the cutter, is by no means essential. The toughest weeds, an occasional corn stalk, or a stick of the thickness of a man's little finger, have been frequently cut, without at all affecting its operation; it can be sharpened, however, in a few minutes with a file. The width of the swath may be increased by having the cutter made longer, and the same machine will cut a stubble of several different heights.

There is ample room to make the different parts of any size, though the strength of every part has been fully tested. The machine has been often choked by oyster-shells getting into the cutter, in attempting to cut too low a stubble. The motion of the machinery being checked; the main wheels slide on the ground, the strain on every part being equal to the power exerted by the horses. It can be managed by any intelligent, careful person. We deem it a simple, strong and effective machine and take great pleasure in awarding unanimously, the meritorious inventor of it, a handsome pair of silver cups.

SAGACITY OF THE HORSE.—The Pennsylvania Sentinel relates the following anecdote of the sagacity, and *humanity* shall we call it? of the horse.

As the Germantown stage, drawn by four horses, was passing along Third-street, above Willow, a small child endeavored to cross the street in advance of the leaders, apparently without observing the dangerous proximity of the latter. One of the leading horses appeared to appreciate the situation of the infant, and made every effort to avoid coming in contact with it. He swerved from the direct line as far as he could, and endeavored to pass it, but being brought up by the rein, was forced against, and prostrated the child. The instant the latter fell, he stopped, as if to allow it to escape; but being driven forward by the hinder horses and impetus of the vehicle, he reared himself on his hind legs, and with one bound cleared the body. In doing this, either from design or accident, he threw the child, with his hind foot, out of the track, so that when the heavy carriage passed on, it did not run over it, although it came within a few inches of it. This may be instinct, but it looks to us marvellously like reason and feeling.

For the Silk Manual.

PHILADELPHIA SILK REPORT.

A friend has favored us with a pamphlet containing a *Report of the Philadelphia Silk Manufacturing Company.* This details the procedings at a meeting of the friends of the manufacture and culture of silk, held on the 15th day of November 1836. Our limits will not permit us to give the entire contents of the pamphlet, and we must confine ourselves to the following extracts.—*Editor of the Manual.*

The Committee has, as extensively as the time and opportunities have permitted, examined the subject confided to them. That it would be a great national benefit, if Silk should become an article of general production in the United States, and that if it can be profitably manufactured in our country, it will give employment to a great number of persons, are truths universally admitted. The culture of Silk by raising the Mulberry Tree, and feeding the worms, which produce that beautiful article of luxury and comfort, will not seriously interfere with the general business of the agriculturist; or require such a portion of the farm labor as will, to any material extent, diminish its usual productions. The Mulberry Tree flourishes best in cultivated fields; and one of the most approved methods of obtaining the leaves for the food of the Silk worm, is from mulberry hedges, which may be made, and securely used for the divisions of a farm into fields, instead of the usual fences. much more costly, and always exposed to injury and decay.

The periods of the year in which the Silk worm is fed, and when only the attention of the farmer and his family is required for their care and management, are those in which the usual labors of a farm are, for a great portion of those periods, at very great; and a large amount of the attention and industry which are required by the Silk worm when feeding. and making the cocoon, are most properly furnished by females and by children from 12 to 16 years. In the winter season, the family fireside of the farmer, now comparitively without employment, may be engaged in reeling the Silk from the cocoons; a most agreeable and profitable occupation for that part of the year.

Within the last two or three years the planting and raising of Mulberry Trees, and the production of cocoons, have become objects of much interest in almost every state in the Union. In Pennsylvania there are now hundreds of acres planted with Mulberry Trees, from which cocoons will be obtained in the coming year.—These plantations will be increased, when it shall be known that a certain market exists for the cocoons, and for reeled Silk at a fair price. Small lots are offered daily; and the Committee entertain the belief that in 1837, one fourth of the supply for a manufactory of a moderate extent, can be obtained from American cocoons.—In three or four years, a manufactory with machinery and buildings, requiring a capital of $100,000, may be supplied with American Silk. The favorable situation of Philadelphia, communicating by her internal improvements with vast fertile regions of the west and southwest, increases the confidence of the Committee in these anticipations. The climate of Pennsylvania, and of much of the countries to the west and south of our state, are as well adapted to the culture of Silk, as any in the world.

The quality of Silk obtained from cocoons of American production, is equal to that of Italy, and the abundance and low price of lands, assure us that its production will cost no more than in Europe; and the Committee believe it will cost much less. At present a large profit is obtained by the production of Silk at $4 per pound.—Hereafter it may become more profitable to purchase the cocoons, or the reeled Silk, thus prepared in the family of the farmer; than to purchase cocoons at 25 cents per pound, as they now sell. Three hundred and ten good cocoons make one pound, and eight pounds of cocoons will give one pound of reeled Silk.—At that rate, the reeling being done at the manufactory—the cost of the Silk will be about $3 per pound. When cocoons are produced in abundance, the Committee are disposed to believe that at twelve cents per pound, the raising of them will be as profitable as growing cotton at fifteen cents per pound.

For two or three years after the establishment of a Silk Manufactory, it must be in part supplied by foreign raw Silk. This can always be readily obtained. Large quantities of raw Silk are imported into the United States, principally intended to be exported to Mexico, where it is manufactured. Any portion of this can be arrested on its way, and used here; and the constant and rapid intercourse with England and Italy, will always secure its import, as it may be required, in a short period of time.

The present prices of foreign raw Silk, are Bengal, $4,25 to $6,00 per pound. China, $5,50 to $6,00. Italian, $6,00 to $7,00 per pound.

The amount of manufactured silks imported into the United States, in the year ending on the 30th of September, 1835, was $17,497,900.

Silk is manufactured in France principally by adult labor, but the introduction of machinery in the manufacture of silk, which is in the ratio at 90 per cent. in the hundred, which reduces the cost of manufacture from 50 to 80 per cent. England, by the use of machinery, has become the

successful rival of France, in many articles of silk manufacture. Let the ingenuity of America be applied to silk machinery, as it has been to the machinery for making cotton and woolen goods, and its success will be the same. The higher cost of adult labor in the United States, will thus be rendered comparatively unimportant.

The cost of a manufactory, and the amount of capital necessary to conduct it will depend much upon the extent of the building, the cost of the ground, and the amount of Silk proposed to be manufactured. The expenses of machinery are not heavy, as Silk machinery it always light in its construction, and requires no great power to keep it in motion. A six horse power steam engine will move the machinery to manufacture two hundred pounds of raw Silk per week; and a building of 30 feet in width, by 225 feet in length, 3 stories high, will be sufficient for all the purposes of manufacturing, dyeing and packing that quantity of Silk within its walls. It is proper also to observe that the expense of machinery, will depend much on the kind of work to be done. Many articles manufactured from Silk, require machinery of but little cost; and the estimate is made with confidence, that an establishment for the manufacture of Silk into plain and ordinary articles, will cost no more than about one eighth of a cotton factory, to turn out the same number of dollars worth of work; and with equal if not greater profit.

(To be continued.)

Chinese Mulberry Trees.— We fine in one page of the Silk Culturist, the following quantities of this tree advertised, as aiso about 2 millions of plants of the White Italian Mulberry.— Truly we are a *propagating* people.

75,000 by W. G. Comstock, Hartford.
50,000 do. do.
100,000 by W. Prince & Son, Flushing.
75,000 by W. Kenrick, near Boston.
20,000 by A. Row, near Rochester.

320,000

and a great many thousand more by D. Stebbins of Northampton, Mass. C. B. Mellory, Westfield, Thomas J. Bestor, Suffield, and Joseph Davenport of Colerain. Now allowing each plant to occupy a space of three feet by one, which is the fair nursery distance, 320,000 Multicaulis trees would fill, in nursery order, about 40 acres, which would average to the five proprietors, eight acres each; and if planted in orchards, at 15 feet apart, would fill 1660 acres. The 2,000,000 white Italian would plant, at the same distance, something more than 10,000 acres. We seem in a fair way to have at least mulberry trees.

Something New.— A new, and, it would appear, a most effectual safeguard against fire has been discovered by a gentleman of Washington. It is a composition of the appearance and consistence of paint, which when applied to wood renders it secure from damage or destruction by fire. A public experiment of its utility was made last week in Washington, in the presence of the Mayor, General Gratiot, Colonel Edwards. Mr Cunningham, and several other gentlemen, the surprising results of which are thus noticed in the Georgetown Metropolitan:

Two small houses had been constructed of dry pine boards, the one open to permit a free passage for the flames and air, and the other close built and secure. Thirty barrels of pine shavings were then placed around and in contact with both the buildings, and six barrels of the same inflammable matter were piled up on the floor of the open house in contact also with the sides of the interior. When the match was applied, the flames rose to a considerable height above both structures, with much fierceness; but on the decay of the fire it was found that the house was not even scorched, except in one or two places, where the paint had not been well applied. The close built house, which had been properly prepared, escaped entirely. The fire continued for nearly an hour in a manner that would certainly have reduced to a heap of ashes any pine, oak, or other wooden building covered with ordinary paint.

Colonel Paimbœuf declares that this composition will not cost more than common paint, that it may be made as fine and beautiful, and various in color, and that it possesses far greater durability.

The gentlemen above mentioned, and others who witnessed the experiment, have issued a certificate expressive of their satisfaction, and strongly recommending the paint to the attention of Government.—*Balt. Amer.*

A Patriotic Family.—Capt. Simeon Cole, now living in Bradford, and five brothers, being six sons of the late Samuel Cole of that town, performed twentyseven years and eight months service in the revolutionary war! We doubt whether the same is true of any other family in the United States. This little town furnished a very large portion of soldiers in the revolutionary army; and no less than eight of her sons were slain on Bunker Hill.—*Haverhill Gaz.*

Speed of the Dog.—There is a dog belonging to the conductor of the train on the Dedham branch road, which accompanies the train to and from the city every trip, and always keeps a rod or two in advance of the engine. His speed has been once or twice tried, and he has beat the locomotive.

BEANS.

Mr Holmes : — Permit me to suggest to my brother farmers, that as the price of beans have been for several years past, there is no crop, (all things considered) gives a greater profit than beans. They do not need land in a high state of cultivation, if planted by themselves, as they always should be, when a variety not prone to rust is cultivated. That variety called the pea-bean is very prone to rust, but not so much so if a few kernels of corn are planted on the north side of every hill — let the bean crop be depended on more than the corn. Aside from their inclining to rust they are too late a bean for our climate, and ought no longer to be cultivated in Maine, since there are several other varieties of white beans that mature much earlier, and yield more, and are as valuable for the table. Never plant a running bean, they smother themselves and every thing near them. Many beans are taken into the woods as supplies for loggers — many more taken to sea, as they are not injured by frost in winter. This is judicious. Besides, they are more hearty, as we say, and therefore evidently save meat and bread, and one who dines on them is well sustained through the remaining part of the day if he labors hard. Let us raise more of them, and attend more to the varieties we plant, and my word for it, so long as people lumber and go to sea, the price will fully reward us. A Farmer.

Highly Important Invention. *The life Spar.* Shortly after the destruction of the Royal Tar, we alluded briefly to the manifest importance of every vessel's being abundantly provided with life preservers, adding, that no traveller should venture upon our seas or rivers, either in sail or steam boats, without being furnished with one of these sure aids in times of danger. We now publish, with great pleasure, a new invention of greater magnitude, viz: The Life Spar. In consequence of the numerous accidents which are daily occurring upon our waters, the inventor, S. T. Armstrong, agent of the Roxbury India Rubber Company, was induced to offer this article to the public. One of these will support and save twenty four persons. It can be inflated with very little effort and transported with the greatest ease. — When a boat is leaky, two of these spars attached to either side of the boat, will enable it to buffet the most severe storm, after the vessel itself can afford no chance of safety.

The spar is twenty feet long and thirty-six inches in circumference, of a cylindrical form, composed of the strongest twine duck, and covered between its lining and exterior with India Rubber. It may now be seen at the Company's store in Washington street, Boston, and Pearl street, New York; and it will amount to culpable negligence in captains and other persons, who are subject to risks at sea, either of life or property, not to give it a fair trial. We repeat, that, in our estimation, it is an invention of the highest importance, and we believe that in a short time owners would as soon think of sending vessels to sea without chart or compass, as without these life spars and life preservers.—*Boston Post.*

On selecting Seed.— No duty in the whole course of husbandry should be more carefully attended to than that of selecting seed. One rule that ought always to guide the farmer in his selecting is, to select the *best.* The brevity of the present summer and early frosts, have to a very great extent, rendered the products of the soil not only unprofitable for consumption, but wholly unfit for seed. During the last few years, many losses have been sustained in the potato crop, in consequence of using unripe seed; and if the greatest care is not exercised in selecting and preserving seed for the next season, failure must inevitably follow, not only in potato fields, but also in those sown with wheat, oats, and other white crops. Let the ripest seed that can be obtained be secured; and those individuals whose crops were injured by the early frosts, ought in no case to use the products of their own farms for seed, if they can possibly obtain seed of a better quality from their neighbors. That these hints may lead to attention on this subject is the desire of

Melville.

Potatoes.— Every Englishman who goes to the continent, eats potatoes *a la maitre d'hotel.* On his return, he is desirous of having them at his own table, a thing that can seldom be accomplished, though the process of preparing them is very simple. It is as follows: Boil the potatoes, and let them become cold. Then cut them into rather thick slices. Put a lump of fresh butter into a stew pan, and add a little flour, about a tea spoonful for a middling sized dish. When the flour has boiled a little while in the butter, add by degrees a cupful of broth or water. When this has boiled up, put in the potatoes with chopped parsley, pepper and salt. Let the potatoes stew a few minutes, then take them from the fire, and when quite off the boil, add the yolk of an egg, beat up with a little lemon juice and a table spoonful of cold water. As soon as the sauce has set, the potatoes may be dished up and sent to the table.—*Magazine of Economy.*

Chilblains or frosted feet are *cured* by bathing the feet in warm water until they are soft, then place them in a basin of cold vinegar for a few moments, and go to bed immediately, and you will rise in the morning, freed from this disagreeable and vexatious complaint.—*New York Star.*

PRESERVING SEEDS, &c.— Mr Thomas Short, in the Horticultural Register, says in substance, sugar, salt and paper have been used for the purpose of preserving seeds, but have proved insufficient; but the following method will answer perfectly well: — Let the seeds which are to be preserved, be immersed in a strong solution of Gum Arabic; then let them be carefully dried, and without any further preparation, they will become perfectly secured against the injurious consequences of a humid and variable atmosphere, and not subject to mildew, and therefore enabled to retain their vitality after the most protracted voyage.

CURE OF LOCK-JAW.— Among the horses exhibited at the West Suffolk Agricultural Show on Friday, was a fine cart mare, the property of Col. Rushbrook, which was some time since seized with lock-jaw, and was perfectly cured by pouring cold water along the back from a watering pot, without intermission, for a considerable time; the application being recommended by an eminent London verterinarian. This affection has been generally considered incurable. — *English paper.*

MANSFIELD COAL. — A specimen of coal from the Mansfield mine, weighing 500 lbs., has been placed for exhibition in the area of the City Hall. The company after sinking a perpendicular shaft, 60 feet deep, opened a gallery 40 feet wide below the out-croppings of the coal, and proceeding horizontally 22 feet—have come to a stratum of coal, of which the one exhibited is a specimen — five feet 4 inches wide, and have received new encouragement to proceed in the exploration — of the successful result of which, we entertain no doubt. *Transcript.*

INDIAN BREAD.—We recently partook of some most excellent Indian corn bread baked in large loaves, and the following method of making it was given.

After the meal is prepared, pour some boiling water on it, till it is wet. Put in six steamed sweet apples to a loaf, a little yeast, milk, and enough cornell or middlings to render it capable of being kneaded. Let it rise, and then bake it three hours at least.

NEW FURNITURE.— A New York Yankee has invented an improved bee hive, which is said to have the appearance of, and to be, in fact, a mahogany side board, with drawers above, and a closet below; with glass doors, to be placed in the chamber of a house, and to be connected with the open air by a tube passing through the wall. The operations of the bees are clearly seen through the glass doors, and the honey is deposited in the drawers.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR ASHES!—The Salem Gazette says, "We are informed that three individuals have been prosecuted and fined under the late Ordinance for keeping ashes in wooden vessels." Two thirds of the dwelling house fires, probably proceed from this cause. It should be remembered by families in this vicinity, that the conditions of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, forbid that ashes should be put into woodeu vessels.

TOOTH ACHE.— Creosote, we see by those of the foreign medical journals, is highly recommended for this painful disease. First cleanse the cavity of the effected tooth thoroughly, then apply the croesote with a fine camel's-hair brush, and afterwards fill the cavity with a piece of cotton. This substance has become quite a panacea in Europe, and many important cures have been effected by it.

TO SAVE CUCUMBERS FROM BUGS. — Sprinkle on the vines at evening, (after cooled) tea grounds as they are commonly left by families after use. This done so often as two or three times a week, will not only prevent injuries from bugs, but it strengthens and invigorates the vines and causes them to become exceedingly fruitful.

A GREAT CROCODILE.—A Crocodile, estimated to be upwards of one hundred years old, measuring 12 feet 4 inches in length, and weighing 551 pounds was killed in the Red river, near Natchitoches, La. on the 26th ult. His paws after being dissected weighed 36 pounds—and the carcase yielded 11 gallons of oil.

Mr Green, the aeronant, with two other English gentlemen, performed a voyage in a large air balloon, in 12 hours from London to Welburg, in Germany, 480 miles in 17 hours.

KREOSOTE.— Of this article, which has been— like almost every other newly discovered substance, possessing a powerful, active principle — strongly recommended as an "infalable cure" for the tooth ache, a cotemporary remarks: — "We would caution our readers not to tamper with this dangerous extract. Unless used with the greatest care, disastrous consequences will follow. We know a lady whose face was partly paralyzed by using it. She nearly lost her voice. It is highly antiseptick, and is, when dropped upon the tongue absorbed almost immediately by the system. It is generally used with four hundred parts of water."— *Transcript.*

The Barre Gazette cautions the ladies to keep at a proper distance from the fire, as their clothes are very liable to ignite and produce disastrous consequences.

(From the Vermont Chronicle.)

BEES AND HONEY.

Honey raised in a cold climate and mountainous country, is the purest and best. As a source of profit, very few persons in Vermont keep bees, and yet we are convinced that the Green Mountains might become as distinguished for excellent honey, as they are for first rate Beef, Pork, Butter and Cheese.

We lately cut the following from a New York paper: —

Honey.— In passing through the garden employed by the American Institute, our attention was directed to some boxes of Honey, of a clear, white and beautiful transparent appearance, such as has seldom been seen in the New York Market. It is presented by Messrs Wilcox & Cone, of West Broomfield, Ontario County, Ohio. One of the firm has furnished us with the following statement: —

"Last spring we had not more than 220 swarms, this fall we had over 420; nearly all of the young swarms are good to winter over. We have taken from our bees 3,700 lbs. of box or cap honey; in addition to this, we furnish all the vicinity where we live with boxes, showing them how to manage, promising to buy all the honey that was built in them. This added to our own, made 5,641 lbs. All of this was taken away without destroying a single swarm of bees. Near seven-eighths of this honey was of the white, such as was exhibited today; it arrived in New York market on the 9th of September; nearly two-thirds of it is already sold. We have adopted this plan to make our bees profitable, and not destroy an insect that is such an example of industry."

Wishing to give our readers more information respecting such an instance of successful business in the hive, we wrote to Messrs Wilcox & Cone. From their very obliging answer to our inquiries, we copy the following:

Our hives are of almost all descriptions commonly used, having bought many of them. We prefer the smaller sizes, such as will hold about thirty pounds of honey when well filled, as that will be sufficient to winter a common swarm, and such hives swarm the most. We procure our honey from a box of about seven inches square, placed on the top of the hive. The box should be made to fit very close to the hive, and no communication out of it only through the hive. The hole should not be less than three inches square. These should be put on the old hives, before the Bees begin to gather from the white clover, and on the young swarms when they are first put into the hives. In this way instead of the bees lying on the outside of the hive, idle, as they commonly do, they have room within the box, where they continue to build, and gather, till they are ready to swarm. Many of our swarms do not work on the boxes at all; but by boxing them all, we average from 7 to 16 lbs., from every old swarm. Last year we got over 16, it being more than a common season for honey.

We have not been troubled much with the moth; having so many hives together the birds keep them mostly subdued. We think it the best plan to raise the hive so that the bees can just pass out all round the hive: they keep the bottom board clean of comb dust, so there is less chance for the millers to deposite their eggs, where they will not be destroyed. Care should be taken to kill all that can be found on and around the hives every day or two.

We use no means to furnish our bees with food, excepting to feed some light swarms towards spring; which we do, by putting comb filled with honey, in the box on the top of the hive. Bees flourish the best where there is plenty of Elm, Sugar Maple and Basswood, and where the soil is natural for white clover. Elm and Maple blossom early in the spring; after the spring flowers are gone, bees stir but little, until white clover begins to blossom; if it fills well with honey, bees soon fill their hives and begin to swarm; if not, they swarm late, and the swarms stand a poor chance; the Basswood and Buckwheat are the principal flowers they have to gather from. — Sometimes there are honey dews which help them much.

Our box honey which is pure and free from bread, is gathered principally from Clover and Basswood blossoms.

Our hives stand in the same situations winter and summer. We are careful to have the tops secured so as to keep the snow and water out, and not admit a draught of air through the hive. Every hive should have a three quarter or half inch hole from four to six inches from the bottom, in front, to afford air in winter. In very cold weather, frost accumulates in the hive. from the breath of the bees, and in mild weather it melts and runs down to the hole at the bottom and freezes to ice and shuts out the air, if there is no other air hole. Many bees are smothered greatly for want of this knowledge. Bees winter the best in straw hives, but do as well in summer in board or tub hives.

There is a variety of opinions on the subject of bees, owing we think, to their being liable to change. Two swarms in the spring may stand side by side, and to appearance, be equally good; one may prosper well, the other dwindle away and die; or they may both swarm equally well, and one a few weeks after swarming be robbed; the other winter well.

Our reason for this is, that in swarming time, the Queen or Queens, if there be more than one, (as there frequently is at this season of the year,

but at no other) all leave the hive with the swarms and leave but few working Bees and Drones in the old hives; which, of course, without a Queen die. Sometimes they will guard their treasures till winter, and then die, and leave the hive well filled with honey.

After swarming is over, such hives as have swarmed out, we take up as soon as they are likely to be robbed, and save the honey. In October we examine our young swarms, and take up all that have not nearly enough to winter on. In this way we obtain much honey, and destroy none of our good swarms for increase.

P. S. In a statement of ours that was published in some of the New York papers, showing the amount of honey that we raised the past season, there was a mistake made by the Editors. It was printed 700 pounds, but it should have been 3700.

From the Ohio Farmer.

LOCATION, SOIL AND CULTIVATION OF THE MADDER CROP.

A location facing the south or south-east is to be preferred. A sandy Loam not over stiff and heavy, or light and sandy, or a good brown, deep, rich upland Loam, free from foul grass, weeds, stones or stumps of trees. Where a crop of potatoes, peas, corn or wheat, has been cultivated the past season, plough deep twice, once in September and once in October, and if rather stiff let it lie after the plough until spring. When the spring opens, and the ground has become dry and warm, (say in Tennessee, 1st of April, Ohio 15th, and New York, 25th to 1st of May; I speak of the spring of 1836.) Plough again deep, the deeper the better, then harrow well and strike it into ridges with a one horse plough, three feet wide, and four feet vacant, or making a ridge once in seven feet, raising it, if on rather moist ground, eight or ten inches, and dry land six or eight from the natural level, then with a light harrow level, and shape the ridges like a well formed bed of beets, &c.

We will suppose you intend to plant one acre of ground, and that you have purchased 8 bushels of top roots in the fall and buried them like potatoes on your premises — count the ridges on your acre, and take out of the ground, one bushel of roots, and plant it on 1-8 of your ridges; you will then be able to ascertain how to proportion your roots for the remainder.

The following is the manner of planting, cultivating, &c., when the quantities of ground do not exceed three or four acres. One person on each side of the ridge to make the holes, (plant four inches below the surface of the bed, or thereabouts, when covered,) one on each side to drop the roots, and one on each side to cover, pressing the hill like that of planting corn, or three persons on one side, as the case may be, whether you have one or more acres to plant. Let the owner be the dropper of roots, and his most thorough assistants behind him. Make the holes from twelve to eighteen inches apart, and about six inches from the edge of the ridge. As the plants are supposed to have been purchased in the fall, the roots may have thrown out sprouts, and possibly have leaved. In this case, in dropping and covering, you will leave the most prominent sprout or sprouts a little out of the ground, as where a plant has leafed, it ought not to be smothered.

When the plant gets up three or four inches, weed with the hoe, and plough with one horse, between the ridges or beds, but not on them; this will take place 2 or 3 weeks after planting. When up 12 or 15 inches, many of the tops will fall; assist them with a ten foot pole; two persons cross them each way across the bed, cover them with a shovel or garden rake, throwing the soil from between the ridges. — After loosening with the one horse plough, you will, with a shovel scatter the earth between the stalks rather than throw it into heaps; of course we wish to keep the stalks separate, as they are to form new and important roots in the centre of the beds. About the 20th of June, you may plough between the beds, and scatter more earth on the fresh tops, (all but the ends) and when you get through, you may plant potatoes between the beds if you choose. I do not recommend it, if you have plenty of land, although I raised 1070 bushels of Pink Eyes on eight acres the first year, and 60 bushels of corn. If your land is perfectly clear of weeds, you are through with your labor on the Madder crop for this year, except in latitudes where there is not much snow, and considerable frost; in this case cover in October two inches or thereabout. 2d year; same operations in weeding, but no crop between; cover once in June. 3d year; weed only; 4th year; weed in the spring, if a weedy piece of ground.

Begin to plough out the roots in Tennessee, [3 years old] first Sept. Ohio [4 years] same time. New York, 15th or 20th, after cutting off the tops with a sharp hoe. In ploughing out the roots use a heavy span of horses, and a large plough. We ought to choose a soil neither too wet or too dry, too stiff or light. Shake the dirt from the roots, and rinse or wash, as the soil may be, stiff or light; dry in a common hop kiln; grind them in a mill after Wilson's Patent Coffee Mill; this mill weighs from one to two pounds. The madder mill may be from 60 to 80 lbs. weight. Grind coarse, and fan in a fanning mill; then grind again for market. The profit of this crop is immense; the exhaustion of soil

trifling, and glutting the market out of the question.

The Editor of the Albany Cultivator, vol. 2, page 20, says — "It is principally cultivated in Holland, the province of Zealand, being literally covered with it, from whence it is exported to every part of Europe and America, yielding almost incalculable profits. The import of this article for the use of our manufacturers, is said to amount in value, to more than two millions of dollars annually." Mr Jefferson, while minister in France, writes: "They cultivate madder here at immense profits; they dig it once in five or six years." I have before me a communication from a cultivator of the article, (see Cultivator, vol. 2, page 93,) who makes the clear profit to amount to $888 30, on an acre once in four years. The lowest amount of profit that I have known on an acre in four years is $300; the highest 1200; this last included the sale of top roots for planting. The amount will vary according to the soil and cultivation. I have unquestionable evidence that one hill (2400 to the acre) has produced in five years, 4 lbs. of kiln dried madder; another at five years old, 6 lbs. another wherein they took uncommon pains with the hill, 8 lbs. 8 oz. Mr Woodbury of Winfield, Herkimer county, N. Y., the writer of the above mentioned communication, purchased in the fall of 1834, one-fifth of an acre of madder 4 years old and planted in hills, (far less productive than if planted in ridges) for which he paid $80, and dug from it one thousand one hundred pounds. After it was kiln dried, he sold it for 18 cents the pound. The usual yield for four years is 3 pounds to the hill, where the land is first rate, and the cultivation is performed by a snug farmer. The crop increases something like the following ratio, viz. 1st year, small growth. 2d, double. 3d, equal to the two first. 4th, equal to 15 per cent. on the whole; at least this is my opinion, not having dug any that was five years old. Madder grows, and the stalks are fresh, in any of the middle and western States until killed by a hard frost, and is almost the first vegetable that starts in the spring, hence I should suppose that madder in Tennessee, at 3 years old, would be equal to four years at Birmingham, Ohio; four and a half, Oneida county, New York; five years Winthrop, Me. The cultivators of Holland and France, from whom we draw most of our supplies, and most of the agricultural authors of those countries have been silent on the subject.

I am located in the rich bottoms of the Vermillion river. I, in connection with another person, plant this spring 10 or 12 acres. As I have always been of the opinion that a madder soil should be composed in a great degree of decayed vegetables, I think I shall get in four years from 5 to 6000 lbs. f dried Madder per acre. I have a good upland 1 1-2 acres, planted some time since, from which I can spare enough roots next fall, to plant 6 or 7 acres. The price will be, in the fall, for 6 bushels, $24; over 6 and under 12, $3 50 per bushel; over 12, $3.

Birmingham is 38 miles west from Cleveland, Ohio, and 14 miles south-east from Huron, Ohio. Messrs. Wickham & Co., Forwarding Merchants, Huron, will be applicant's agents, to whom funds may be forwarded for the purchase of roots; P. E. & E. B. Bronson, Birmingham, owners, or R. Bronson, Manager. All letters on the subject must be post paid to meet with attention.

I had been in the practice of using the 'Rubin Tinctorum, or Dyer's Madder,' for many years previous to embarking in the business; and before I commenced, I ascertained that the price of the imported article was worth (the preceding thirteen years, on an average, in the New York market,) 15 cents per lb.; the ten years preceding the thirteen years, it was worth 25 cents, and in that time have known it worth 44 cents. In my early communications to Editors of agricultural papers, I stated the crop would equal 2000 lbs. 3 years old, but did not dream that 4 years would produce an average of 4000 lbs. on good land and good culture. The cost does not exceed 4 1-2 cts. per lb., exclusive of selling top roots for planting. They may be sold with profit at three years and even two years old.

It is surprising to me that no more than sixty acres is as yet under cultivation. There will be about one hundred acres planted this spring, and from forty-five thousand to seventy-five thousand acres wanted for the consumption of the United States, and England as she cannot grow the article, imports all she uses. I say she cannot grow it to advantage; her summers are too moist and cool. It is more absurd to let foreign nations export madder to this country, than to let them export wheat or wheat flour. It is more hardy than the potato crop. It is worth three cents more per pound, than the best imported. As a proof, no imported madder can be sold where this has been kept for sale. The difference consists in this, that the brightest roots are selected in the field in those countries, dried and ground, and sent to England. They use it in dyeing their Adrianople, or Turkey red, on cotton; the rest dried, (without rinsing) ground, and sent to America. In this country, a prudent cultivator rinses, dries, and grinds altogether; then fans or separates the loose bark and small fibres from the pure article. The refuse is used for ground of many colors.

Madder is used in whole, or part, for the following colors on wool, both in England, France, and America, viz: blue, black, red, buff, olive-brown, olive, navy-blue, and many others; finally it produces one of the most beautiful, durable

and healthy colors that is at this time dyed; as for calico printers, it enters greatly into their dyes. The city of Lowell, in Massachusetts, uses thirty thousand dollars worth per year. A war with France would raise the article to thirty one cents per lb. in the New York market. One small establishment in Otsego County, New York, uses equal, each year, to three-fourths of all that is raised in the Northern States at this time.

The reader will now inquire why have not the farmers in the United States, entered into the culture of this article, and completely glutted the market? I will answer, that most of them want their profit at the expiration of each year, not thinking that the horse or ox is four years old before it is profitable to sell. But there is another difficulty. I have before observed that there was wanting, for the consumption in the United States, from 45 to 75,000 acres. The amount of Madder roots, for planting, dug last fall, was 1000 bushels. There will be planted this spring, say something more than 100 acres; next fall there will be for sale, roots amounting to 250 bushels, and next year, enough to plant 200 acres. Probably it will take ten years or more, to procure a supply of roots to plant, equal to the consumption of 1835—6 or 7. I have before me a communication from a respectable correspondent, detailing the mode of cultivation in Holland and France, together with queries, requesting my answers, which I will most cheerfully give, and which will be forwarded to be inserted in your paper, should you deem the above worthy of publication.

I have, for many years past, believed that the soil and climate of Ohio, was peculiarly favorable to the culture of silk, madder, and the grape for making wine; and having resided here in course of the last and present years, several months, I have been more and more confirmed in that opinion. What hinders this State from rising in rank above New York? Let every farmer take an agricultural paper, and improve the privileges that nature has given them. I have examined the soil and privileges of this county in particular, and do not hesitate to say, I believe that it equals any part of the United States. There is, I believe, no desirable fruit or grain that grows north of Philadelphia, but what flourishes here. It is certainly a most desirable soil and climate, compared with that of the middle counties of New York. Many of the farmers of this section, only skim the surface of the land with the plough. What hinders the water, in the spring and fall, from settling in the ground through the sub soil, and bursting out in springs? —— Shallow ploughing. What hinders the farmer from obtaining thirty bushels of wheat to the acre? —— Shallow ploughing. I wish I were able to commit to paper all I feel in favor of manual labor, or agricultural schools, backed by numerous agricultural papers, containing communications from a Buel, a Colman, and a host of other scientific and practical farmers. I am not a practical farmer, in a large way, myself, but the aid I have received from perusing those papers, for a few years past, has been of great benefit to me — yes, ten times the expense of four agricultural papers per year.

Not being brought up on a farm, how could I exercise judgment in the selection of a horse, ox, sheep, or hog? I read the communications of writers of acknowledged reputation, on the subject, and compared their arguments with my own reason, improved by previous reading, and made my choice. How should I be able to select and cultivate the various grains and grasses, or to till the ground to a proper rotation of crops, or select and engraft with my own hands the best fruits in the country, and last, though not least, to have a good garden?

I might go on and multiply reasons why I will patronize agricultural papers; but knowing my inability to do justice to the subject, and fearing your readers will think I am fishing for some particular individual, I will conclude with wishing you and your brethren in the cause, many subscribers, and that you will consider me one of them.

R. BRONSON.

Birmingham, Huron County, Ohio.

[From the Mechanic & Farmer.]

TEMPERANCE.

The following letters were writen in answer to inquiries, proposed by a Committee of the Bangor Temperance Association, to gentlemen of science and experience in the medical profession. Other communications on the same subject may be published at a future time. The questions proposed were as follows:

1st. — Whether the *habitual use of cider* has any tendency, without the aid of other intoxicating liquors, to form the habit of intemperate drinking.

2d.— Its influence in reproducing intemperate habits, which had been for a time abandoned.

3d.— Its influence upon diseases, and upon the general health of the community.

To Dr Mussey was also proposed the question, whether the alcohol of fermented liquors is set free, so as to set directly upon the system, or is carried off by the digestive process.

My Dear Sir,— In reply to your inquiries, I may say,

1. That we have no evidence whatever, that alcohol, in any form, or taken under any variety of admixture, is capable of being digested or converted into nourishment.

2d. That it is capable of passing into the blood and existing in it in the state of alcohol, and passing out again in the same state, along with watery

vapor — in so far as we can judge from the flavor of the breath, and the perspirable matter of the skin, when abundant. I bled a drunkard last Saturday, whose blood, as well as skin, had distinctly the alcoholic color.

This odor exists in the breath of the wine, cider and porter drinker. Every fact we possess on this subject goes to prove that alcohol is a poison — that it is always injurious to the machinery of life, when habitually taken — and that, when used as a medicine, it operates like other active medicines, which are poisons, by making a temporary impression, unhealthy in itself, but which may supplant the impression made by the disease, and then be made to subside, by withdrawing the stimulus which caused it.

That cider, wine and beer can bring back the relish for distilled spirit, in a reclaimed drunkard, is certain. A glass of cider, beer or wine, has brought back to sottishness and destruction, many a man who seemed to have been reformed. A man now walks our streets with a red face and glassy eye, who abstained from strong drink for three years — who is a member of our Temperance Society, and drinks no distilled liquors, and whose appetite was resuscitated by wine and beer, and whose destruction is now regarded as almost certain. He is said to have taken more than 20 glasses of wine last Friday.

There cannot, I think, be left a reasonable doubt that as much mischief to health, results from the use of any kind of fermented liquor, as from distilled spirit equally diluted with water. Indeed, the strong tendency to disorders of the joints, as gout, and what is called chronic rheumatism, or neuralgia, in the drinkers of wine and beer, and to apoplexy and dropsy in beer drinkers, would induce me, if I *must* drink any given amount of Alcohol in a given series of years, to prefer distilled spirit to any sort of fermented liquor.

It is the alcohol in fermented liquors which causes man to prefer them to water, and doubtless the only reason why deep drunkenness is not as common in communities purely wine or cider drinking, as in those who employ chiefly, or wholly, distilled spirit, is, that the alcohol cannot be had in a state so concentrated. Fewer drunkards, perhaps, are made by cider drinking, than by the use of wine — at least, some kinds of wine; and it is understood that pure wine made from rich grapes, contains from 10 to 15, or more, per cent, of Alcohol, while the Alcohol in cider ranges from 6 to 10 per cent. — It will be perceived that 10 per cent. of Alcohol will make wine or cider of the same strength with a liquor composed of *one* part of proof spirit and four parts of water.

How can there be a drink so good as water? We have a plenty of evidence from fact that it is better and safer than any other. It seems to have been made just right at first, and if, for some thousands of years, mankind have been in vain attempting to make it better by various additions, it may be safely predicted, that as many more thousands of years will roll away before their efforts will be followed with better success.

I believe that something like a reply to all the questions is contained in the foregoing remarks.

With much regard, yours,

R. D. MUSSEY.

Burn your Coal Ashes.— Mr Editor: — I have always regarded the statement that there was any thing combustible in anthracite coal ashes, as a mere whim; and I have been lately induced to try the experiment, more to prove the fallacy of the notion than from any expectation of a successful result. But "I give it up." In these hard times, perhaps some of your readers may be disposed to try the experiment; and without attempting an explanation of the thing, I will briefly state the method and result of my own trial: Before making the fire in the morning, or when wishing to replenish it, I stir the ashes and fine coal thoroughly out of the grate, leaving in the grate all the coal that will not fall through — add enough fresh coal to make the fire, and when it burns freely, cover it about an inch thick with the fine coal and ashes mixed together, and wet with as much water as they will hold — and as that burns out, put on another coat. *Possibly* this cannot be done in open grates where there is not much draft; but a fair trial will, I think, convince the most sceptical that there is much that is valuable in the ashes which are ordinarily thrown into the streets. Many will undoubtedly cavil, but let the candid

TRY.

The New York Commercial Advertiser of the 18th ult. states, that within the three preceding days twenty thousand, five hundred bushels of German wheat had been sold in that city at from $2 to $2,50 per bushel.

Disgraceful.— We learn from statements made in the New York papers, that 150,000 bushels of Grain, is taken monthly from that market for distillation. In this way our meat doth become our poison. We have noticed in some of our exchange papers, a call for a meeting "to consider the causes of the present high prices of bread stuffs." Is the above a small consumption; and for an article highly necessary for the well-being of the community, especially the poor laborer, and conducive to the happiness of wives and children, of inebriated husbands?

Perhaps this question will be answered in the deliberations of that meeting.

Agricultural Survey of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.— We have been informed, and are much pleased to learn, that a Topographical Survey of this State, with particular reference to its Agriculture, under the sanction of the Legislature, is in contemplation. Surveys of this kind have been accomplished in Great Britain and Ireland, and the results have been very useful and interesting. Almost every cultivator has some improvement, or peculiar mode of tillage, some new or improved seed, plant, fruit, breed of animals, mode of treating their diseases, some new and superior implements for facilitating and adding efficacy to labor; something peculiar in his practice of the art of husbandry, which, if generally known, would be generally adopted, and prove beneficial to every individual of the great family of man. The knowledge derived from actual survey, sanctioned by ocular demonstration, and correctly reported, could have none of the disadvantages attributed to *book farming*. It would be the results of experience, communicated, for the most part by men who practice what they communicate, and who cannot afford to practice incorrectly.

In carrrying into effect a survey of the kind alludcd to, much — almost everything would depend on the agricultural knowledge and judgment, as well as industry of the person or persons to whom the surveys may be entrusted. It would be easy to accumulate masses of matter, as flat, stale and unprofitable as the figures in the calendar pages of an old almanac, but if the inquirer knows what has been in use, and is capable of judging of what might be found useful in rural economy, mines of informat on might be explored, more valuable than those of Golconda or Potosi.

In order to obtain valuable results to the researches, said to be in contemplation, a *system* should be pursued as regards objects of inquiry. In Great Britain, the following course, or something similar, was usually adopted: —

Survey of Middlesex.

Middlesex is part of the north side of a vale watered by the Thames, and contains 179,200 acres, exhibiting a great variety of agriculture.

1. *Geographical State and Circumstances.*

Climate — Healthy; warmer near London, from the fires kept there. Stationary winds from S. W. and N E. In spring, frost in the hollows, when none on the hills, thermometer has been as high as 83°, and as low as 6° below zero.

Soil.— By long continued manuring, the surface soil almost every where looks like loam.

Surface —Gently waving; highest towards the north; Hampstead 400 feet above the level of the sea, &c.

Mineral Strata.— 1. Cultivated surface. 2. Gravel of Flints, &c. Water: Abundant and excel'ent. The Thames falls about 24 feet in ten miles. Mineral waters, at East Acton, Hampstead and Bagnige wells. Fish caught in the Thames: Sturgeon, Salmon, Tench, &c. Spring water found at various depths, from 5 to 300 feet; the latter the depth at Paddington.

2. *State of Property.*— Estates generally under the care of attornies and badly managed. Tenures: much freehold, considerable extent of copyhold, some Church, College and Corporation land.

Then follows: 3. Buildings; 4. Mode of occupation; 5. Implements; 6. Enclosing; 7. Arable land; 8. Grass lands; 9. Gardens and Orchards; 10. Woods and Plantations; 11. Improvements; 12. Live Stock; 13. Rural Economy; 14. Political Economy; 15. Obstacles to Improvement; 16. Miscellaneous Observations, 17 Means of Improvement.

Other topics of inquiry might be added to, or substituted for some of the above mentioned; and, perhaps, circular letters containing queries relative to such points of information as are thought of the greatest consequence, might be sent to intelligent cultivators, in the towns about to be visited for the purposes of Agricultural Surveys, &c. By such and other means which will suggest themselves to practical and ingenious cultivators, a mass of information may be elicited which will be of a value, scarcely to be overrated by the most sanguine anticipations.

The Farming Interest and the Surplus Revenue.— Under this head, the American Farmer gives an article, recommending the several States to establish Pattern Farms, Agricultural Schools, General State Agricultural Schools, and County Societies.

"After viewing and reviewing the subject, in all its various phases, we have come to the conclusion, that a better disposition of a *part* of the revenue, could not be made; and that like the seed sown of old, it would increase a hundred fold.

"America at this moment presents a curious aspect to the world. Hitherto, from her surplus products, she has been able to supply the old world with a large portion of their bread stuffs, but owing to the disastrous results of the season the last year, she is now almost dependent on the transatlantic grain growers, for her daily bread. Such being the case, does it not behoove those whose province it is to superintend and promote the concerns of the national husbandry, to essay a remedy for the existing evils. If it should be asked, would the organization of the agricultural institutions, we speak of, prevent the depredations of the fly, and stay the elements? We answer, if they did neither one nor the other, the happiest effects would result from their existence. While the two first, would tend to enlighten the agricultural community, the two latter would excite a spirit of emulation and generous rivalry, that could not fail to be productive of an immense sum of public and private good."

Agricultural Papers in Maine.— Maine can now boast of a trio of agricultural papers, equal to any in the country; and we are happy to add that her farmers

seem to understand their value, by tendering them a hearty and liberal support.

The Maine Farmer, is published at Winthrop, and conducted by Dr. Holmes, a practical cultivator, and a scientific man. His correspondents are numerous and of the right sort, giving valuable statements of improvement and experience, in a plain and perspicous manner.

The Yankee Farmer, is published at Portland, S. W. Cole, Editor, and commences it third volume, with an improved typographical appearance, and changed from a semi-monthly to a weekly paper. The Editor is industrious, and successful in his endeavors to present to his readers an interesting sheet. The selections and editorial matter are alike judicious.

The Farmer & Mechanic, John S. Sayward, Editor, published at Bangor, is devoted as its name indicates, and differs somewhat in plan from the two first named papers, but no less useful or interesting.

Though the establishing of these papers has had the effect to withdraw subscribers who live in that section, and who very properly preferred to subscribe for local papers, from our list, we gladly hail them, and wish them all the prosperity they deserve.

LARGE HOGS.

Big Hogs.— David Smith, of Hadley, has slain five hogs, the whole weight of which exceeded twenty-one hundred! One fellow had grown so corpulent about the face that, literally he could'nt look "beyond his eye-lids!" — *Northampton Cour.*

Mr Cornelius Husted, of Pine Plains, in this county, fattened this fall, a "lady pig" and 11 "blooming responsibilities," the weight of which was twenty-four hundred and thirty-seven pounds! If Northampton can produce a swinish family having more *weight* in community than this, we will give it up, and say nothing about one of our Duchess county pigs, which had grown so fat, that — would you believe it? — his mother did'nt know him! — *Poughkeepsie Tel.*

Larger Still.— Messrs Editors,— In order to sustain the credit of old Duchess, I enclose you the weight of 11 hogs, which I sold to Mr Eli Mygatt, merchant of New Bedford. Their weight was as follows: 350, 352, 384, 387, 391, 400, 448, 453, 459, 496. Aggregate weight 4542 pounds; average weight 413 pounds. The hogs were 1 year old in June last. Albro Akin.

Quaker Hill, Dec. 26, 1836. *Ibid.*

There were yesterday brought to this market, by Mr Nathaniel Brown, of Scituate, nine hogs, raised by him the present season, weighing in the aggregate after being dressed, 3443 lbs. averaging a fraction less than 383 pounds each. The largest weighed 460 pounds. They were purchased by Messrs Ward & Work, and J. Florer, of the Old market.— *Prov. Jour.*

We have given above the utmost that Hadley, "Old Duchess," or Scituate can boast of, and now give them a touch of what Southboro' can do.

Large Hogs.— Joseph Jennison of Southboro', Ms. has fatted and brought to Market this season, two Hogs 18 months old, weighing 629 lbs. and 557 lbs., which he sold for 13 cents a pound, realizing the sum of $154 18 Pretty fair business this!

Snow Storm.— Last Saturday the most severe storm that has been experienced this winter, visited us, and the quantity of snow fell is about a foot. "It is an ill wind that blows nobody good," says the Advocate of last Monday. "The wind which has been steady at the North-west, for the last 20 days, veered on Saturday to accommodate the storm, and 20 or 30 vessels laden with Grain and Flour, which have been hovering about our coast, unable to get in, arrived. The price of flour is reduced $1,50, making the speculators look blue. Flour has been $3,00 higher in this market, than in N. York!" We continue quotations this week.

☞ Our readers will be gratified to learn that the Rural Library, projected last January, by S. Fleet, will be issued in a short time. It is a monthly work; and its object is to furnish the public with a cheap and convenient edition of the best works on Farming and Gardening, now extant, and to republish all English publications, as fast as they are issued from the press. Thus affording for $3,00, what, in another form, would cost twenty or tairty dollars. One volume of the Rural Library will form a complete Library of itself. Published by S. Fleet, 81, Barclay Street, New York.

Ship Building.— The number of ships built in the United States last year was 957 — comprising the following classes: 88 ships, 94 brigs, 497 schooners, 180 sloops, 88 steamboats. The tonnage of which amounted to 119,330 tons.

BRIGHTON MARKET.— Monday. Jan. 23, 1837.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 400 Beef Cattle, and 790 Sheep—about 50 Beef Cattle unsold.

Prices.— *Beef Cattle.*— About last week's prices were obtained for a like quality, and we quote to conform, viz. extra, $7 50; first quality $6 75 a 7 25; second quality $6 00 a 6 50; third quality $4 75 a 5 75.

Sheep.— We noticed lots taken at $3 50, 4 25, 4 50, 4 66, 5 12, and 5 88.

Swine.— None at Market.

SEEDS FOR COUNTRY DEALERS.

Traders in the country who may wish to keep an assortment of Genuine Garden Seeds, for sale, are informed they can be furnished at the New England Farmer Office, Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston, with boxes containing a complete assortment of the Seeds mostly used in a Kitchen Garden, on as favorable terms as they can be procured in this country, neatly done up in small papers, at 6 1-4 cents each— warranted to be of the growth of 1836, and of the very first quality. A liberal discount will be made to dealers. Ornamental Flower Seeds will be added on the same terms, when ordered, as well as Peas, Beans, Early and Sweet Corn, etc. Orders should be sent in early. Catalogues supplied gratis.

Jan. 18.

LINSEED OIL MEAL.

The subscribers are now ready to supply Farmers and Stable Keepers with the above superior article for feeding horses, cattle and swine, the quality and cheapness of which has been fully tested by farmers in the vicinity, and stable keepers in the city, to whom reference will be given

The Linseed Oil Meal is used generally as a substitute for corn meal, and is mixed with bran, or any other food having little nourishment, or with cut hay and bran for horses; and is believed to be as cheap food as corn meal at seventyfive cents per bushel.

The price of the above is thirty dollars per ton, delivered at the mill in Medford, thirtytwo dollars in Boston. Apply at No 10 Commercial wharf, or in Medford at the mill.

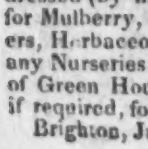
Nov. 23. GEO. L. STEARNS & CO.

GARDENER WANTED.

One who thoroughly understands his business, particularly greenhouse culture, will find employment, by addressing MARSHALL P. WILDER, 3 Central Wharf.

Jan. 11.

TREES.



Our customers will please take notice, that the season for transplanting Trees is approaching. All those who intend to order trees, are requested to forward their orders early. The first that comes are served first. Catalogues will be supplied gratis on application. Direct to

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Jan. 18. New England Seed Store.

FARM FOR SALE IN WESTBORO.

Thirty miles from Boston and one mile and a half from the Boston and Worcester Railroad Depot on the Road leading to Hopkinton Springs, and within twenty minutes ride of either place. Containing forty-two acres of land under a high state of cultivation, with a never failing stream of water, running through the same—2 good houses, and other out buildings all in good repair. Also a large granite quarry easy of access. The granite is of fine color, works well, and can at small expense be landed in Boston. Said farm is pleasantly situated and well worthy the attention of gentlemen in pursuit of a pleasant country seat or a farmer wishing a small but good farm. For a person who would wish to accommodate families visiting the Springs, this stands unrivalled. Said farm will be sold low if applied for immediately, to NAHUM HARRINGTON, Esq. Westboro, or HENRY WHITMORE, on the premises.

Also one containing eight acres, with a new house and other out buildings suitable for a mechanic, on the same road, within one mile of the village. Apply as above. Dec. 28

$50 REWARD.

An Irishman, who called his name James White, hired of the subscriber, on Tuesday, the 17th instant, a large brown mare, 8 years old, short switch tail, a very long and straight back. Her natural gait is about eight miles the hour. Also a C spring chaise, with drab lining, side lights and lamp sockets; the body of a brown color, the maker's name under the cushion, (Ballard & Parker, Framingham.) The harness is brass mounted, with a long flat water hook on the saddle, and brass front piece on the bridle. He was to go to Dover, Mass. and to return the same day. Said White is about five and a half feet in height, and has small weak eyes. He had on a blue suit, and a light colored overcoat. He was about 25 years of age. As he has not returned, $25 will be paid for information of the above property, and $25 for the man.

PERKINS BOYNTON, Charlestown Street.

Boston, Jan. 21, 1837.

BRIGHTON NURSERIES.

For sale, 20,000 Morus Multicaulis, or Chinese Mulberry Plants, warranted the true and genuine kind. Orders addressed (by mail) to Messrs. WINSHIP, Brighton, Mass., for Mulberry, Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Creepers, Herbaceous Perennials, &c &c. that are cultivated in any Nurseries in the United States, with a first rate collection of Green House Plants, will receive prompt attention, and, if required, forwarded to any part of the Union.

Brighton, Jan. 18, 1837.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE.

		FROM	
APPLES,	barrel	1 75	
BEANS, white,	bushel	1 75	2 25
BEEF, mess.	barrel	14 25	14 50
No. 1.	"	11 75	12 25
prime,	"	9 00	9 50
BEESWAX, (American)	pound	28	30
CHEESE, new milk,	"	9	13
FEATHERS, northern, geese,	"	56	60
southern, geese,	"	52	56
FLAX, American,	"		9 12
FISH, Cod,	quintal	2 25	3 00
FLOUR, Genesee, cash	barrel	13 00	13 25
Baltimore, Howard street,	"	12 25	12 50
Baltimore, wharf,	"	11 75	12 00
Alexandria,	"	11 75	12 00
GRAIN, Corn, northern yellow	bushel	1 13	1 15
southern flat yellow	"	1 09	1 16
white,	"	1 08	1 10
Rye, northern,	"	1 50	1 55
Barley,	"	90	1 00
Oats, northern, (prime)	"	65	70
HAY, best English, per ton of 2000 lbs		22 50	
best English, new	"	22 50	25 00
hard pressed,	"	20 00	21 00
HONEY,	gallon	45	50
HOPS, 1st quality	pound	9	10
2d quality	"	7	8
LARD, Boston, 1st sort,	"	16	17
southern, 1st sort,	"	15	16
LEATHER, Philadelphia city tannage,	"	30	31
do country do.	"	24	27
Baltimore city do.	"	27	29
do. dry hide	"	21	23
New York red, light,	"	24	25
Boston do. slaughter,	"	21	23
do. light,	"	19	21
LIME, best sort,	cask	1 30	
MACKEREL, No. 1, new,	barrel	9 50	10 00
PLASTER PARIS, per ton of 2200 lbs.	cask	3 00	5 12
PORK, Mass. inspect. extra clear,	barrel	30 00	31 00
clear from other States	"	27 00	30 00
bone, middlings, scarce.	"		
SEEDS, Herd's Grass,	bushel	3 00	3 12
Red Top,	"	85	6 00
Hemp,	"	2 75	3 00
Red Clover, northern	pound	14	17
Southern Clover,	"	13	15
SILK COCOONS, (American)	bushel	2 75	4 00
TALLOW, tried,	lb.	9	10
WOOL, prime, or Saxony Fleeces,	pound	85	1 30
American, full blood, washed,	"	65	70
do. 3-4ths do.	"	60	65
do. 1-2 do.	"	55	58
do. 1-4 and common	"	50	55
Northern pulled. Pulled superfine,	"	65	70
Northern pulled. 1st Lambs,	"	55	60
Northern pulled. 2d do.	"	40	45
Northern pulled. 3d do,	"	30	33
Southern pulled wool is generally 5 cts. less per lb.			

PROVISION MARKET.

RETAIL PRICES.

HAMS, northern,	pound	14	15
southern, and western,	"	13	14
PORK, whole hogs,	"	11	12
POULTRY,	"		16
BUTTER, (tub)	"	22	23
lump	"	23	25
EGGS,	dozen	24	25
POTATOES,	bushel	50	75
CIDER,	barrel		